



The Preserver, May 2023

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Rob Kennedy**



As I write this message, we have just enjoyed a week of summer-like weather. Spring is here, the snowbanks have all melted away and new green shoots are sprouting everywhere. It is amazing how nature and new life can lift our spirits and change our outlook on life. All the more reason we desire to strengthen NLT in its mission to establish and protect the natural beauty of our County.

Last October we hired Laura Bozzelli, our first full time employee, who is very busy assisting us in achieving our goals. This past month, the Board entered into a six month contract with V Formation to help us with fundraising and outreach to foundations and major donors, grant writing, communications through digital ads, and direct response email/mail. They will also provide ongoing support to the Board through their many areas of expertise and knowledge gained in working with other land trusts. They came highly recommended by our sister land trust, Kawartha Land Trust, with whom they have worked the past 3 years.

We, your Board, are excited about our future with you, our supporters, as we grow NLT together to preserve the beautiful landscape of Northumberland County. Now that the better weather is here, be sure to check out our events calendar. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events.

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## **NLT BIRDING MARATHON 2023**

Before dawn on a May morning of their choosing, expert birders will begin the Northumberland Land Trust Birding Marathon. Our 15 eager volunteers will have 24 hours to monitor our 13 Nature Reserves that cover 1267 acres.

Every year there are surprise sightings and old friends returning to the same habitat.

Last year, Ben Walters spent the day at the McEwen Nature Reserve. He provided a first report of the destruction from last year's terrible Derecho storm in the region. But the birds had returned despite the downed trees. He noted, "I heard and saw a Northern Parula in the same oak-popular stand where it is each spring."



**Northern Parula**



Ben also logged a Hooded Warbler, a very uncommon species in this area. The Reserve does provide small openings in the mature forest and is suitable habitat if it finds a mate. This year, Ben will look to see if the Hooded Warbler has returned.

Doug McRae spent last year at Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve on Lake Ontario. The conditions were perfect - the water was glass calm, with no heat for several kilometres. He reported that he could see birds for several kilometres. But he was surprised by the lack of species on the water. He noted that by 8 AM, he was off the lake and into the woods, but it was silent. Doug commented, "the lack of song or visible migrants here hurt the final tally a little and was somewhat disconcerting given this is the height of song [season]."



Nostrand conditions no heat for several kilometres diversity of

Jack Van Nostrand Nature Reserve

Citizen science projects are crucial to understanding how climate change impacts Northumberland County. The bird count last year tallied over 130 species, with several important Species at Risk observed.



You can support the bird count. And when you donate, you can guess how many species will be identified this year. The contest winner will earn a litre of maple syrup and bragging rights for the year.

Your support of the birding marathon funds the stewardship and maintenance of every NLT Reserve. It will include building and installing birdhouses, invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, wildflower planting and controlled burns to

The NLT Birding Marathon is

dedicated to the memory of Norma Wallace, an avid birder and long-time NLT supporter.

When you support the NLT Birding Marathon, you are also supporting our baseline data capture of the avian health of Northumberland County. NLT uses this information when applying for grants. NLT also shares the year-over-year data with landowners considering donating their properties to NLT.

To make a donation in support of the Birding Marathon, please go to [nltrust.ca](http://nltrust.ca) and click on the "Donate Today!" button. You can enter your total species guess in the message box. Thank you for your support!



Norma Wallace

**Our growing list of birders includes:**

Leslie Abram (at Lone Pine Marsh)  
 Taylor Brown (Kennedy)  
 David Geale (Wilkinson)  
 Kris Ito (Munn)  
 Andrea Kingsley (Jack van Nostrand)  
 Doug McRae (McColl)  
 Marina Scassa (Bonebakker)  
 Marie Wannamaker (Jack van Nostrand)

Kurt Appleman (Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre)  
 Roger Frost (Leckey)  
 Paulette Hebert (de Kleer)  
 Owen Jamieson (Chub Point)  
 Jacob McLaren (Lone Pine Marsh)  
 Katsu Sakuma (Pelton)  
 Ben Walters (McEwen)

For more information on these birders, please see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yN2pSsNroOTHOVWLE9vqE5efvY6Wko9a/view?usp=sharing>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18 (Thursday) - our Annual General Meeting, at the Cobourg Public Library, beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you missed the notice of this meeting and would like it to be sent to you, please request it from [robert.fishlock@cogeco.ca](mailto:robert.fishlock@cogeco.ca) or call 905-342-3851.

May 27 (Saturday; rain date is May 28) - a birding walk at the McEwen Nature Reserve. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Walker Rd. and the 10th Line, northwest of Garden Hill. This should be a great morning for Grasshopper Sparrows, nesting Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds, and other birds of both grasslands and forests. We'll check the pond for Eastern Newts and other herptiles! Please preregister at [info@nltrust.ca](mailto:info@nltrust.ca), and you will be sent a map showing the meeting spot, or call 905-342-3851. Leaders: Leslie Abram and John Geale.

June 17 (Saturday; rain date is June 18) - a walk at the Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserve. We will visit the Lake Ontario shoreline and the Provincially Significant wetlands, two of the outstanding features of this Reserve, looking for birds, butterflies and herptiles - and any other creatures that show up. Start time will be 9:00 a.m. Please preregister at [info@nltrust.ca](mailto:info@nltrust.ca), and you will be sent a map showing the meeting spot, or call 905-342-3851. Leader: David Geale

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## WESLEYVILLE UPDATE

On October 6, 2022, representatives (photo right) from the Joint Working Group - Wesleyville (JWG-W), Fleming College, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and the Nature Conservancy of Canada worked together to develop a one-day field trip to add to Wesleyville's natural heritage inventory. In the field, they collected soil samples, classified vegetative communities, and made species observations using iNaturalist, contributing to the Wesleyville Biological Inventory project. Five teams of Ecosystem Management Technology

**Jenny Jackman**

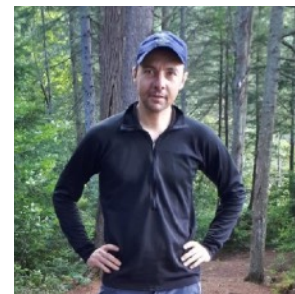


students teamed up with guides from the Northumberland Land Trust and Willow Beach Field Naturalists, and experienced ecologists to update the 2003 Ecological Land Classification to be used in the development of a Conservation Plan. One hundred thirty-five species were identified, including: 26 birds, 3 mammals, 2 reptiles, 1 amphibian, 4 bryophytes, 1 lichen, 1 fungus and 120 plants; 13 invasive species were observed, and the students gained valuable field experience.

On June 6, 2023, the JWG-W will conduct the third annual summer bird count. Data gained will add to our case for environmental protection of this threatened area.

## **STEWARDSHIP NOTES**

A new Steward - we are pleased to introduce Marc Studhalter as the Steward of the Kennedy Nature Reserve. In Marc's words, "I am a professional pilot who moved to Northumberland County four years ago and was immediately amazed at the natural beauty of the area. I have had a lifelong love for nature and wildlife, and am extremely grateful for the opportunity to volunteer for an organization that is committed to the preservation of Northumberland's natural heritage." Marc has already been out on a cold, rainy winter day to help with Wood Duck nest boxes. We look forward to many more work parties with him - and with warm sunny weather!



A busy nest box spring - first, many thanks to Ted van Netten, who made and donated 5 Wood Duck boxes, 10 bluebird/swallow boxes, and 9 boxes for smaller birds like chickadees and nuthatches. Stewards and other volunteers have already set up all the Wood Duck boxes and several of the bluebird/swallow boxes at the McEwen, Wilkinson, Lone Pine Marsh, Chub Point and Jack van Nostrand Nature Reserves; more will go up during the spring and summer. There are now over 50 nest boxes on our Reserves, and they have all been cleaned out and made ready for the birds that are now arriving.

### Other projects:

- At McEwen, a small grove of Scots pines has been cut down, and 20 of the 60 butternut seedlings (an endangered species) donated by John Apostolides have been planted.
  - At the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Ed. Centre, the season's work to remove periwinkle has begun with help from TCS students.
  - At Pelton, 20 more butternut seedlings have been planted, and the firebreak has been set for an anticipated prescribed burn of the field as soon as the weather cooperates.
  - At Jack van Nostrand, the final 20 butternut seedlings have been planted
- Stewards have also reported many interesting wildlife sightings, including snapping and painted turtles, Wood Ducks near some of our nest boxes, and lots of bluebird and Tree Swallow activity at the boxes.

## **A NEW DONATION**

NLT has been working through a new property acquisition! Our generous donor, Robert de Lint, is donating approximately 100 acres to the NLT. He has cared for this land since the 1970s and ensured that its environmental values were protected, enhanced and enjoyed by many.

What was once a largely agricultural property has since been managed, under Robert's direction, to restore the forested drumlin, stabilize the creek bank with a vegetated buffer and maintain the grasslands through light cattle grazing.



Just south of the Town of Campbellford, this property is located within the extremely biodiverse region of the Trent River/Murray Marsh Corridor. It overlooks the mouth of Percy Creek, an important cold-water stream, at its junction with the lower Trent River. The property also contains nearly 1200 m of well-vegetated shoreline on Percy Creek, flowing along the entire west boundary.

The various habitats on the property are suitable for numerous species-at-risk. The current owner, Robert de Lint has observed many a Bobolink in the grasslands and one of our own expert birders, Doug McRae, observed a male and a female feeding fledged young.

In addition to providing habitat for many species, this property is ecologically valuable for the many ecosystem services it provides. This property plays a significant role hydrologically as it is partially located on a highly vulnerable aquifer, adjacent to a significant groundwater recharge area and just upstream of the Percy Creek and Trent River confluence. The woodlands and wetlands contribute to the attenuation of runoff, support water quality and inhibit bank erosion along Percy Creek. The property also serves as a linkage corridor that provides connection between and among the various habitats on this property as well as the natural heritage features located throughout the surrounding area.

NLT is inspired by Mr. de Lint's passion and dedication to the preservation of Northumberland County's natural heritage and we extend our sincerest gratitude for his generous donation. The donation is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

## **GROW ME INSTEAD**

Our Chub Point Steward, Amy Quinn, found an excellent resource for gardeners who wish to plant native species and to learn more about invasive species. The publication "Grow Me Instead" can be downloaded at <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!** (January to March 2023)

**Mighty Oak Branch (\$5000 and over)**

None to report

**Sturdy Maple Branch (\$2500-\$4999)**

None to report

**Enduring Pine Branch (\$500 -\$2499)**

Deborah Campbell

Doug McRae (Shrew Solutions Inc.)

**Graceful Ash Branch (\$100-\$499)**

Deborah Black

Karin Fawthorp

Michael Harding

Paulette Hebert	Richard & Sarah Holland	Dave Impey
Thomas & Jennifer Jackman	Harry Knapper & Dorothy DeLisle	
Virginia (Mary) Maclean & Roger Nainby		James Munn
Virginia & Peter McLaughlin	Richard & Felicity Pope	Margaret Stephenson
Jenna Stephens-Wells	Sue Stickley & Ted Hunt	Marlynne Warling

**HEARTY ACORN (LIVING BEQUEST)**

George & Margaret Gordon	Robert Fishlock	Doug McRae
John Davidson & Irena Orłowski		

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023!**

If you have already renewed, thank you! If not, our preferred methods of payment are now **(temporarily)** by cheque or by using CanadaHelps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/northumberland-land-trust/>

Please use the drop-down menu to select the correct category.

**(Note:** e-transfers should not be used until we solve some technical issues.)

To pay by cheque, please fill out the form below, make your cheque payable to "Northumberland Land Trust", and mail to:  
Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street City/town Postal code

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual:  \$25    Family:  \$40    Supporting:  \$50    Corporate:  \$100

Donation:  \$100     \$250     Other \_\_\_\_\_     I wish to remain anonymous

Contact NLT at 905-342-3851 or by e-mail at [info@nltrust.ca](mailto:info@nltrust.ca). If you wish your membership or donation to remain anonymous, please indicate this at the time of your contribution by ticking the box above. To view the NLT privacy policy please visit our website.